102 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd February, 1997.

(2) The Andhra Pradesh Coal Mines Provident Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 103 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd February, 1997.

(3) The Rajasthan Coal Mines Provident Fund (Amendment) Scheme, 1997 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 104 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd February, 1997.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-1952/97]

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

12.03 hrs.

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 1997 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd May, 1997 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.03 1/4 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Minutes

[English]

SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU (MADURAI): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sittings of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House held on 5 December, 1996 and 12 March, 1997.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Fifth Report

12.03 1/2 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (DUMDUM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to present the Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance on the Insurance Regulatory Authority Bill, 1996.

12.04 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the chair*)

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please speak one by one.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Sir, please allow me to speak. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (AHMEDABAD): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have cooperated with the Chair. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All right, you have cooperated with the Chair. Please tell me what is that you want to say.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: It was the unanimous decision of the Cabinet of the previous Government to release Rs. 2,005 crore for the rehabilitation of the NTC workers and of the textile mills because of the demand of the various Members of Parliament and from all the political parties.

The decision has been taken by the previous Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: That is not correct.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: The Government says that it is not implementing the decision.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, you took the initiative.

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I will allow you.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK: My request is that the Government should, keeping in view the larger interest of the workers, implement the decision taken by the previous Cabinet for the rehabilitation of the textile workers. It is the demand of all the Members of Parliament.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (HOWRAH): Sir, you are one of the architects to decide the destiny of the workers in the textile sector. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may recall the way you tried to protect the workers since the Government came out with a package with certain fomulae. The package should have been implemented with the initiatives of the Government and the BIFR. Time and again, we have been raising this matter in the House. In the Common Minimum Programme of the United Front, a basic guarantee was given to protect the interests of the working class in the large textile sector. If now the Minister comes and says that they cannot implement that package, it means you are leaving the workers in the streets. They are already deprived of their salaries and wages for the last three months. Now withholding the budgetary support means total betrayal of the working class. I, therefore, appeal to the Minister, the Leader of the House and the Finance Minister to take this matter to the Cabinet and come out with a